

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph of page 4, lines 26-32 to page 5, lines 1-4, with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with still another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method for extending a character region in an image. The method comprises the steps of receiving an input image, classifying the input image into character blocks and background blocks, ~~and~~ converting pixels in the character blocks into pixels having a first brightness value and pixels in the background blocks into pixels having a second brightness value, ~~and~~ searching for left, right, top and bottom positions of a character region by horizontally and vertically scanning the block-classified image, ~~and~~ determining a position of the character ~~region;~~ region, and extracting an image in the determined position of the character region from the input image. The method for extending a character region in an image further comprises extending the extracted image of the character region to a size of the input image.

Please replace the paragraph of page 8, lines 15-26, with the following amended paragraph:

Position search part 140 horizontally and vertically scans the median-filtered image and searches for a position of the character region. The position search part 140 horizontally scans the median-filtered image and searches for a point x1 at the leftmost character block and a point x2 at the rightmost character block. The position search part 140 also vertically scans the median-filtered image, and searches for a point y1 at the topmost character block and a point y2 at the bottommost character block. A position of the character region in the image is determined according to a result of the search. In this case, the left top and right bottom points of the character region are (x1, y1) and (x2, y2). The left top and right bottom points (x1, y1) and (x2, y2) of the character region are based on the aspect ratio of the input image, such that distortion of the image can be prevented when ~~[[an]]~~ a region-of-contents (ROC) extension part 160 extends the image.